Commerce Notification No. 23 (RE-96) dated 10.2.1997, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Growth of trade between India and Latin America

909. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of protocol signed by India recently to set up trade with Latin American countries;

(b) the major constraints affecting growth of trade between India and Latin American Countries;

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to step up trade with Latin American countries; and

(d) the details of other liberalised opportunities to be given to private sector for economic cooperation to boost imports in Latin America?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) Recently, a Trade Agreement between India and Trinidad and Tobago was signed on 24th January, 1997. This is a general Trade Agreement and would serve to promote business relations between the two countries. The major constraint affecting growth of trade between India and Latin American countries is the great geographical distance between the two sides, because of which shipping time is longer and more expensive. However, this situation is slowly changing. Recently, the United Arab Emirates/Clipper Shipping Joint Venture Company have started direct shipping service between Mumbai and Sao Paulo, (Brazil). There is also greater awareness among the business communities of both the sides of the potential that exists for promoting and increasing trade. This has been possible because of an exchange of delegations and holding of trade fairs and exhibitions. In order to provide liberal opportunities to the private sector for economic cooperation to boost trade with Latin American and Caribbean region, 43 countries of this region have been given the benefit of claiming double weigthage on NFE or FOB basis earned by the export of products to these countries for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House.

Decentralisation of Industrial Planning

910. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States representatives have emphasised the need for decentralisation of industrial planning aimed at delegating more powers to the States Governments in setting up new projects and expanding one specially in North Eastern States, at the seminar organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in association with Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta in December, 1996; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to solve the problems raised by various representatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) It has been ascertained that the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the affiliated local Chambers of Commerce organised a seminar on "Economic Resurgence of the Eastern Region" on 28th December, 1996 at Calcutta. The meeting was addressed by the Ministers of Industry of the Governments of West Bengal, Assam and Orissa. The proceedings of this seminar have not yet been conveyed to the Central Government.

Training for chilly exporters of Andhra Pradesh

911. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to train chilly exporters of Andhra Pradesh on how to preserve chilly for export and prevent over usage of pesticides and fungicides;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would assist them in exporting the huge stock of chillies lying for exports by opening a regional office of Spices Board in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Spices Board jointly with the Horticulture Deptt. of Govt. of Andhra Pradesh and Regional Agriculture Research Institute (RARS), "LAM, Guntur" proposes to conduct training programmes in the districts of Guntur, Khammam, Prakasam, Warrangal and karimnagar for creation of awareness amongst the chilly growers on quality management and post-harvest handling of chillies with emphasis on need based application of pesticides.

(c) Yes Sir. The Spices Board proposes to open an office in Guntur for assisting the growers specially in the areas of quality management and post-harvest handling of storage of chillies for exports.

Tobacco exports to Russia and CIS Countries

912. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase tobacco exports to Russia and CIS countries in 1996-97;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary negotiations have been completed; and

(c) the steps proposed to improve tobacco exports to Russia and CIS countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Under a bilateral perspective plan agreement, the Russian Government allocates rupee repayment funds to facilitate import of Tobacco upto 20,000 metric tonnes from India each year. The perspective Plan is at present operational for the period 1995-97.

Some of the steps taken/being taken for increasing tobacco exports to Russia and CIS States are:—

(i) Exploring possibilities of entering into long-term supply contracts with the tobacco processing plants in Russia.

(ii) persuading Russian authorities through bilateral discussions to fully utilise the funds allocated under the rupee repayment funds for the purchase of tobacco from India.

(iii) Facilitating contacts between importers from Russia and other CIS countries with Indian tobacco manufacturers and exporters through visits of trade delegations.

(iv) Permitting stock and sales of tobacco in CIS countries and exports on consignment basis against payment in freely convertible currencies.

(v) Encouraging the Indian exporters to set up offices in CIS countries.

Foreign exchange earned from export of tobacco products

913. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned from the export of different tobacco products in 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the break-up of export of tobacco products, giving details;

(c) whether any item is showing an upward trend in exports in 1996-97; and

(d) details of such tobacco products which show upward trends in exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The quantity of tobacco products exported and foreign exchange earned during 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April-Dec.) vis-a-vis 1995-96 (April-Dec.) are as follows:—